

Serial No. 10/512,139
Docket No. 03USFP852-K.F.

(KUD.084)

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 17-19, 23-30, and 32 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 20-22 are canceled. Claims 23 and 28-30 are amended to depend from allowed claim 2 to place this Application in condition for allowance. No new matter is added.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Entry of this § 1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicants earnestly solicit entry.

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-9 and 17-19 are allowed. Therefore, while Applicants respectfully disagree with the prior art rejections, to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 20-22 are canceled, and claims 23 and 28-30 are amended to depend from allowed claim 2 to place this Application in condition for allowance. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to permit rejoinder with respect to withdrawn claim 32.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 2-9, 17-19, 23-30, and 32, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

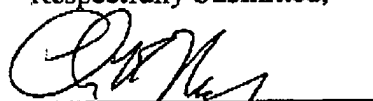
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The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: February 12, 2010
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